

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

## “Communications Protocol”

A transactional protocol enabling messaging, call functions, personalized communication policies, presence, and address book capabilities. The protocol is used between subscriber clients (windows specific or otherwise) and a server-based communication system. At the lowest level, the protocol uses HTTP as a transport, and a combination of a special URL format and content-information to describe intent and results. Alternate transports such as UDP, TCP, SSL, IPSEC, TLS can also be used. Transactions are taken from families of verb sets, each verb set built using a combination of generic verb headers and device/server/session specific tags. The protocol is transactional in nature and follows a pattern. That is to say that the client (in the client-server relationship, not necessarily a subscriber client) sends a request, and the server (again, not necessarily a subscriber server) replies. Generally, a client generates a verb, sends it to the server, and an appropriate handler is found on the server to take action accordingly. The verb must contain all the information that is required for the server to take action, or a reject will be returned.